

Serial No.: 09/981,511
Filed: October 17, 2001

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated December 3, 2002, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Lin* (U.S. Patent No. 6,412,546). In this response, Applicants' amended claims 1, 7, 9, 11-13, 15-17, and 20 and canceled claims 10, 14, and 19. Claims 1-9, 11-13, 15-18, and 20 remain pending.

I. § 103(A) REJECTIONS

With respect to independent claims 1, 11, 15, 16, and 20, Applicants added the limitation that each post extending has a plurality of stop surfaces. *Lin et al.* teaches posts having only single stops (see Figures 3-5 of *Lin*). Without limiting the claims, as explained on page 8 of Applicants' specification, multiple stop surfaces provide increased adjustability of the force to retain the IC. At least for this reason, Applicants assert that independent claims 1, 11, 15, 16 and 20 are allowable. Claims 2-9, 12-13, and 17-18, which depend from claims 1, 11, and 16, are also patentable for at least the same reason as claims 1, 11, and 16.

II. CONCLUSION

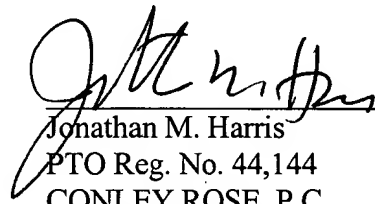
Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite the resolution of this case, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

In the course of the foregoing discussions, Applicants may have at times referred to claim limitations in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when

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determining the patentability of the claims. Moreover, it should be understood that there may be other distinctions between the claims and the prior art which have yet to be raised, but which may be raised in the future. If any fees are inadvertently omitted or if any additional fees are required or have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Conley Rose, P.C. Deposit Account Number 03-2769/1662-46500/JMH.

Respectfully submitted,



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